

the aged, infirm, widows and orphans; the Maimonides Library of New York; the Manual Training School of Philadelphia; the Touro Infirmary of New Orleans; the National Jewish Hospital for Tuberculars in Denver; and a great number of other institutions.

The German Jews were selfless in their aid to the pogrom suffering Jews of the Russian Pale and Romania. In 1886 when the first large streams of Eastern Jews commenced to enter the United States, the German Jews were ready with first aid, help and jobs. Socially, however, the German Jews, like the Sefardim in their case, likewise did not accept them. Even the very humanitarian lodge of B'nai B'rith was for a number of years closed to the East European Jews. Closed to them too was membership to German Jewish Temples and social clubs. The East European Jews were, nevertheless, grateful to their Germanized brethren for their help, and did not even try to force their way as social equals. The barriers, however, commenced to disintegrate within one generation. The East European Jewry, meanwhile, organized their own orthodox synagogues, charities, a powerful Yiddish press, and fraternal orders. At that period the synagogues seemed to have become the church of the poor, while the Reform Temple became the church of the rich and influential. At first, as a Russian Jew became rich or became professional, he "Germanized", but soon the Yiddish Jews became a power to reckon with amid American Jewry. The tables were turned, and a process of assimilation or, rather, orientation with the Yiddish Jews set in.

The thirty-year span following 1881 saw the influx to the United States of 1,572,936 of the East European Jews (Romanian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Lithuanian, Russian and Polish). These by 1910, due to natural increase, nearly doubled to 2,349,754. The horrors of pogroms (massacres of Jews) drove many Jews from the Russian subjugated lands and Romania to other countries, too,—England, Germany, other West European countries, Canada, Argentina, South Africa and Palestine.

The East European Jews, particularly those stemming from historic Lithuania, within short period have made themselves felt in every phase of Jewish life. They brought with them Jewish and Hebrew learning. Publications were established, historical organizations, fraternal orders, and benefit societies organized, and various individuals occupied professorships in American Universities. The East European Jews also stemmed the Reform movement of the German-Austro-Hungarian Jews. A definite religious rift took place when at the banquet of the first graduating class of the Reformist Union College in 1883 food, not conforming with the Jewish dietary laws, was served. This act estranged the orthodox, and fearing, last their future spiritual leaders be "Khazir eaters (swine meat eaters)" set out to organize the Conservative Rabbinical Theological Seminary in New York, established in 1886 and is a purely American Jewish Rite. Dr. Sabato Morais of Livorno, Italy was its first president. Dr. Alexander Kohut of Hungary was the Talmudic professor. Rabbi Solomon Schlechter, from Romania, was one of its famous heads, all of whom helped mold Conservatism.

The Orthodox also created a new office to look after the needs of American Orthodoxy. Rabbi Jacob Joseph of Kraziai, Lithuania, was elected as first "Chief Rabbi". The now famous Yeshivah College of New York was established in 1886. Many other Yeshiyoth (Seminaries for Orthodox Rabbies) were established in Chicago and other cities. The Orthodox have the most numerous congregations in the United States.

The East European Jews were also mainstay of the Zionist movement. The Reformists, until recently, were definitely anti-Zionist (and many still are). No less a per-

sonage than Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise condemned Zionism as an "inclination of morbid minds, and a prostitution of Israel's holy cause to a madman's dance."

A Jewish Congress was created in Philadelphia on March 26, 1916, and it also agreed to cooperate with the Zionist movement, which, since that year leadership in world Zionism was held by the American Jews. This Congress became a forceful organization. A Jewish "Bill of Rights" was formulated during the July 1916 meeting wherein it sought that full civil, religious and political rights be granted to the Jews of all lands. At the Peace Conference at Versailles, France, the delegates from the Jewish Congress presented conditions for the Bill of Rights to the European countries for adoption, not only for Jews but for all citizens. The fifth point read: "That racial, religious, or linguistic minorities must have equal treatment and security in law and fact that they are free to establish, manage, and control, at their own expense, charitable, religious, social, and educational institutions; that they shall be free to use their own language therein, and to practice their religion." This humanitarian Bill of Rights was accepted by the nations as they signed the Treaty of Peace. Unfortunately, the East European nations, who were too imbued with inborn anti-Semitism, did not observe them.

The American Jews from Eastern Europe had close ties with the East European Jews still left behind. Because of their bonds of blood relationship, such as parents, brothers or a mate, they thus felt more keenly the massacres and disabilities the Jews underwent through Poland, Romania, and Ukraina and were duty bound to come to their assistance. When the first World War broke out it was fought in the Pale of the Jewish Settlement and the Jews were greatly victimized by the government and the native populations. In an effort to alleviate the suffering of those Jews the German Jews worked harmoniously with the East European Jews to come to their aid.

Within the United States, American Jewry participated in every phase of the American life, political, civic, educational, scientific, judicial, and the field of entertainment. It was they who developed the movie industry, radio and television. There is a surprisingly large number of comedians. To mention but a few: Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, George Jessel, Milton Berle, Danny Kaye, Jack Benny, The Marx Brothers, Benny Goodman, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker and a host of others. They also contributed to the theatre and toward the musical field in every phase. Their selfless philanthropies toward humanitarian causes and the erection of non-denominational health institutions for the benefit of all is in percentage not surpassed by any other group in this country. The statesman Bernard Baruch has earned respect from all. Joseph Pulitzer is a name for honest and clean journalism; Felix Frankfurter, Benjamin Cardozo and Louis Brandeis were men of honorable reputation in the field of jurisprudence. The rostrum of names in the field of science, medicine, education, finance and industry is too numerous to recount.

The United States and Canada proved time and again to be the "mother of the exiles". During the Nazi reign of concentration camps and incinerators when six million Jews lost their lives, America opened again her arms to receive unfortunate thousands fleeing the Brown Terror of the Nazis. In its wake America was called again to receive additional thousands fleeing the Red Terror. Throughout this entire period, American and Canadian Jewry over-taxed itself to help their surviving brethren and at the same time to rebuild Israel—a fulfillment of their dream of two thousand years which became another land of refuge for teeming thousands.

JUDAICA

JEWISH RITES AND DENOMINATIONS

Jews are divided and subdivided into numerous rites and denominations.

The orthodox groups of Europe are composed of the Ashkenazic (German) and Sefardic (Spanish) rites and their descendants on the American continent, plus an orthodox semi-mystical group of Hassidim prevalent mostly in central-eastern Europe.

In the United States there likewise exist two additional denominations, the Reform Temple which originated in Berlin, Germany, 1815 (first temple built in Hamburg, Germany, in 1818), which is an ultra-reformist group, and the Conservative Synagogue which is a middle-of-the-road form of Judaism is practically a purely American denomination.

In the United States, from its very first settlement until 1848, the Sefardic rite predominated. The Reform German Temple held supremacy from 1848 to 1882. From 1882 on, orthodoxy was in the majority. The Sefardim are losing ground while the Conservatives are becoming more popular.

TALMUD

After the books for the Old Testament were selected and the compilation closed, there appeared a collection known as the "Mishna" (Repetition), consisting of six treatises with sixty-three tractates which were compiled during the end of the Second Century B. C. E. by Judah Ben Simeon. It is around this Mishna that the Gemara (Completion) was built. The Gemara and Mishna together are known as the Talmud (Study).

Seven hundred years were required to create the Talmud and it was finished about 500 C. E. It is written in Aramaic and Hebrew. About 2,200 sages participated in the work during those centuries.

There are two schools to the Talmud, the Talmud Babli (Babylonian) and Talmud Yerushalmi (of Jerusalem). The Talmud Babli is considered the superior book and is most in use. This Talmud was compiled by Rabbis Rab and Samuel.

The Talmud Babli is composed of thirty-seven "books", which are again subdivided into the Halakhah (The Path), and the Haggadah (The Legends). The Halakhah is the absolute law, while the Haggadah consists of opinions, intra-rabbinical discussions, biographic sketches, descriptions of customs of the Templar period and a wealth of folklore. Upon these Haggadic narratives an additional definition (Midrash) was created which further expanded the oral and traditional law and lore.

A great number of sages and rabbis wrote additional commentaries and expositions upon all of the above, many of which are printed alongside the chapters of the Talmud. The most renowned of these is Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo "Solomon" Itskhaki), who was born in Troyes, France in 1040 and died in 1105. Rashi did his writing in a cursive script then current among the Spanish Jews, which script has since been identified with him.

Recommended reading on the Talmud is "Everyman's Talmud" by the Rev. Dr. A. Cohen, Jewish Theological Seminary of America (American Edition), New York City.

TEFILIM, MEZUZAH, THE ARTICLE OF FAITH AND LEARNING

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, is found the "Great Commandment" the Article of Faith for which and with which the Jews died in "Kiddush HaShem—Sanctification of the Holy Name (Martyrdom)."

It reads:

(4) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:



"The First Exam". A Jewish child MUST start learning at the age of five. Here painter Isidor Kauffman, portrays the Rabbi questioning the newly initiated school boy of what he learned at school, while the father coaxes the bashful child to come forth with the information. (Foto Frank Darmstaedter, Jewish Museum, New York).

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- (5) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might...
 - (8) And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
 - (9) And thou shalt write them upon the post of thy house, and on thy gates."

The above passages are recited daily during prayers. Every dying Jew, when departing from this world, tries to utter with his last breath God's oneness of passage four, which in Hebrew reads: "Shema Yisrael, Adonay Eloheinu, Adonay Ekhad."

The Tefilin (phylacteries) which all orthodox Jews bind on their hand and as frontlets, during their week day prayers as is commanded in passage 8, contains this Article of Faith.

On the doorposts of all, except Reform, Jewish homes and institutions, one will note a small, oblong, wooden or metallic container. This, too, contains the "Shema," as commanded in passage 9. This Mezuzah, as the container is called, is kissed by the orthodox each time he passes through the door.

In the same section of Deuteronomy, passage 7 reads: "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

This divine injunction made learning among Jews compulsory and precept (Mitsvah). Thus, during all past centuries, and into the present day, Jewish children have had to study even though it was only Judaism.

KOSHER DIETARY LAWS

The word "Kosher," according to present day connotation, would indicate the meaning: "permissibly clean to eat." Jewish meats must be ritually slaughtered, carefully inspected and sanitarily prepared. No dairy products may be cooked or eaten together with meat. Among the orthodox, these two types of food require two complete sets of utensils—dishes, cutlery, pots and pans. The opposite of Kosher is "Trefah" (or, "Treif" in Yiddish).

The injunction for Kashruth is found in the Pentateuch and expounded in the Talmud and other books. It prohibits the eating of fowl which is not domestic, of fish which has no fins and scales, and of animals which do not chew